

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-16, 19-26 are now pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 1, 10-11, 14-16, and 19-20 are currently amended, and claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 17, and 18 are canceled. The current amendments are aimed at correcting informalities. Therefore, no new prior art search is required in connection with the pending claims, and the amendments should be entered as a matter of right.

A. Claim Objections

Claims 9-10, 14-15, and 19-20 were objected to because they depended from respective canceled claims. Accordingly, claim 9 has been cancelled, and claims 10, 14-15, and 19-20 are amended as shown above to depend from respective pending claims.

B. Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 11, and 16 have been amended to add “a” and/or to delete “the” or “said” in relation to terms that lack antecedent basis. Claims 10, 14-15, and 19-20 are amended as shown above in order to depend from respective pending claims.

C. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-16 and 19-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by *Roethig et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,705). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. *See, e.g., W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Roethig (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,705).

In rejecting claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-16 and 19-26 as being anticipated by *Roethig* under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), the Office Action cited *Roethig's* summary, columns 6-8, and figures 3A-3B, and 4-6. The cited portions of *Roethig* deal with comparing slack distributions. The paragraph starting on column 6, line 66 describes how a comparison of slack distributions may be performed:

“The following paragraph describes one embodiment of logical step 370, shown on FIG. 3A and 3B. In a first step, the total number of paths reported in slack distribution, 350, is compared with the total number of paths reported in reference slack distribution, 345. If there is a significant difference (e.g., more than 5%), erroneous timing constraints and exceptions from the designer are the cause that must be corrected. Once the total number of paths matches within an acceptable error bound (e.g., 5%), the autocorrelation of slack distribution, 345, and the autocorrelation of reference slack distribution, 345, are calculated and compared. Slack distribution can be represented as a discrete function $P(S)$, where P is the number of paths with a given slack S . The autocorrelation function $C_{sub.P}(T)$ for $P(S)$ is defined by equation 1, below” (Column, line 66 – Column 7, line 13; emphasis supplied).

Therefore, it can be seen that the *Roethig* does not teach comparing two individual timing values corresponding to two respective paths and outputting an indication of success if a difference between these timing values falls within a predetermined range. Instead, the cited portions of *Roethig* teach determining a difference between a first slack distribution and a second slack distribution. Furthermore, in *Roethig*, a conclusion as to whether there is an erroneous timing constraint depends on comparing numbers of paths, not timing values.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that *Roethig* does not teach, suggest, or disclose “determine a difference between said reference timing value and said extracted model timing value” and “output an indication of success if said difference falls within said predetermined permissible range.” As discussed above, the cited portions of *Roethig* teach detecting errors by comparing numbers of paths, not timing values.

Claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10

Claims 2-4, 7-8, and 10 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 11

Claim 11 is allowable for at least the reason that *Roethig* does not teach, suggest, or disclose “determining a difference between said reference timing value and said extracted model timing value” and “outputting an indication of success if said difference falls within said predetermined permissible range.” As discussed above, the cited portions of *Roethig* teach detecting errors by comparing numbers of paths, not timing values.

Claims 14 and 15

Claims 14 and 15 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 11. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 16

Claim 16 is allowable for at least the reason that *Roethig* does not teach, suggest, or disclose “a third code segment for determining a difference between said reference timing value and said extracted model timing value” and “a fourth code segment for outputting an indication of success if said difference falls within a predetermined permissible range”. As discussed above, the cited portions of *Roethig* teach detecting errors by comparing numbers of paths, not timing values.

Claims 19 and 20

Claims 19 and 20 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 16. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 21

Claim 21 is allowable for at least the reason that *Roethig* does not teach, suggest, or disclose “comparing a first value that is responsive to a time required for a signal to propagate through a path represented by a first model of a circuit with a second value that is responsive to a time required for a signal to propagate through a path represented by a second model of the circuit” and “outputting a result of the step of comparing the first value and the second value.” As discussed above, the cited portions of *Roethig* teach detecting errors by comparing numbers of paths, not timing values.

Claims 22 and 23

Claims 22 and 23 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 21. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 24

Claim 24 is allowable for at least the reason that *Roethig* does not teach, suggest, or disclose “means for comparing a first value that is responsive to a time required for a signal to propagate through a path represented by a first model of a circuit with a second value that is responsive to a time required for a signal to propagate through a path represented by a second model of the circuit” and “means for outputting a result of the step of comparing the first value and the second value” As discussed above, the cited portions of *Roethig* teach detecting errors by comparing numbers of paths, not timing values.

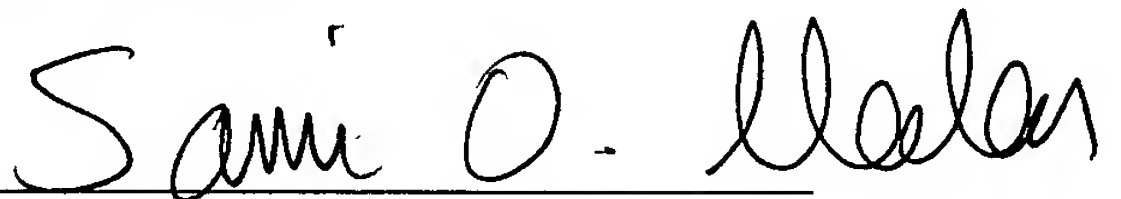
Claims 25 and 26

Claims 25 and 26 are allowable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 24. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-11, 14-16, 19-26 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sami O. Malas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Sami" is followed by a middle initial "O." and the last name "Malas".

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